

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Youth Council and Community Services – Accept and file the 2010-2011 Youth Council Annual Report

Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Youth Council and the Community Services Director that City Council Accept and File the 2010-11 Youth Council Annual Report.

Funding: Not applicable

BACKGROUND

The Torrance Youth Council is comprised of Torrance area high school students appointed by City Council. The Youth Council provides a venue for teens to identify and take action on problems and issues affecting Torrance youth. The time period encompassed by the report includes the previous Youth Council's September to June school-year accomplishments.

ANALYSIS

This 2010-11 Youth Council Annual Report (Attachment A) is for the period of time August 2010 through June 2011. The report was approved by the Youth Council at their September 10, 2011 meeting. Attachment B is an excerpt from the meeting minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

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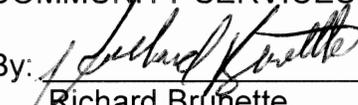
Andy Tsou, Chairperson
2010-11 Youth Council
TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

CONCUR:

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR



JOHN JONES
Community Services Director

By: 

Richard Brunette
Recreation Services Manager

NOTED:



LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager

Attachment: A) 2010-11 Annual Youth Council Report
B) Excerpt of Item 7 of the Youth Council Minutes dated 09/10/11.

**TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL
2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

PURPOSE OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

The Torrance Youth Council is composed of Torrance area high school students whose purpose is to identify and take action on problems affecting the youth of Torrance, as well as to advise and confer with City professional staff, various City Commissioners and City Council on such matters. Members are chosen each June by a selection committee comprised of Community Services Commissioners and Youth Council Members; and later appointed by the City Council. The Youth Council meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Room, City Hall. All meetings are open to the public and youth are encouraged to address the Youth Council on matters of concern to the Youth in the community.

MEMBERS OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

During 2010-11, eighteen Youth Council members have continued the outstanding tradition of their predecessors, by representing the voice of the Youth of Torrance. New faces, different cultures, new ideas and an astonishing amount of energy of these talented members played a key role in turning ideas into successful realities for the Torrance Community.

Throughout the year, this diverse assembly of youth became a close knit group which began at their Annual Team Building Workshop in early September. Each got the opportunity to know each other through leadership games and activities. Elections were held in late September with Andy Tsou selected as Chairperson; Brendon Villalobos as Vice Chairperson; Nicole Cristy as Secretary; as Sergeant-At-Arms Tony Joo, and Candace Wu, Lea Atienza and Adrian Kimmok as Historians.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010-11 PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The 2010-11 Youth Council had a very productive year with their Annual Workshop, held at The ATTIC, and events such as the Christmas and Spring Boutiques, ASB Bowl and Annual Youth Forum. The 2010-11 Torrance Youth Council Publicity Committee will continue to focus on these topics along with developing a Face Book page.

For their annual Spring and Christmas Boutiques the Youth Council added children's activities to go along with the photos with the Bunny and Santa. During Spring an egg hunt was held for any youth who wanted to participate. During Christmas flavored candy canes were given out to everyone who came by the booth.

At the annual "Beat the Odds Scholarship Program and Dinner, five scholarships were awarded to five very deserving high school seniors: Aniqaz Azad, Aaron Cheng, Yu Hu, Jennifer McCann, Emily Myers, Kelly Fruth, families, members of the City Council, Community Services Staff and TUSD staff were in attendance to honor these young people. The Annual Youth Forum was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 and had over 130 representatives in attendance from each of the Torrance high schools; Bishop Montgomery, and CAMS to discuss and debate topics pertinent to them. Justin Sachs, a youth Motivational Speaker who empowers youth to become leaders in their communities spoke and much more."

The Annual ASB Bowl, represented by each of the Torrance High Schools, Bishop Montgomery and CAMS focuses on inter-school unity. This year's theme "high school" had a mock cafeteria, lockers and more. A variety of games were played; competitive, physical, mental and team building; shared information, food and fun. Points are earned through the games and Bishop Montgomery High School was the winning school in 2011` and received the trophy which travels from school to school. All in attendance look forward to next year's competition.

A variety show was held at the Bartlett Senior Center on February 14. The Youth Council and some of their peers from the various highs schools entertained during the lunch hour. The youth acted, sang, danced, played instruments and many other forms of entertainment; while the Youth Council served lunch to the seniors and provided each with a bag of sweets. The senior's had a great time as well as the students. In its second year the Middle School outreach program; where high school students and eighth grade middle school students get together and perform community services. Again it was held at the Lago Seco Community Gardens. The turn-out was low this year and the Publicity Committee plans a different approach to reach the Middle School students in the future. Also for the second year of participation the Youth Council raised funds for Relay for Life. A game booth was set up with children's games, with prizes going to the winners.

The Youth Council continued to support the Community Services Department's Harry Sutter Memorial Turkey Trot Fun Run by pouring water, cutting and bagging oranges to be distributed among the participants after the race. Decorating the Torrance Rose Float was a highlight for some members this year.

The Youth Council continued to be involved in Government protocol and procedures by attending City Council and Commission meetings. Each member gained greater knowledge and learned how the City of Torrance operates as a government body. They also attended the Junior State of America Convention in the Spring and had the opportunity to participate in discussions and debates on current issues, and observed a model State Congress in action which was very helpful to them as they were able to implement their knowledge when planning their Annual Youth Forum.

Youth Council continues to support THE ATTIC, its events and programs such as their annual Job Faire, Ski/Snowboarding Trip, Fashion Show, and the Annual Pancake Breakfast. A special challenge this year was the possibility of the Attic being cut from the budget or possible cuts in hours of operation. A committee was formed with members from the Youth Council and THE ATTIC Advisory Committee to discuss and look into these possible cuts. The committee met several time with students who attended the Attic and as a cohesive group attend the Cities Budget Hearings. Several students spoke on how the Attic has changed their lives and what it means to have a place to hang out. Their hard work paid off and The Attic avoided being cut.

CONCLUSION

It has been a very busy and productive year, the remaining 2010-11 Youth Council members look forward to an exciting new year by integrating innovative new ideas and goals that the new 2010-11 Youth Council members will bring.

Respectfully submitted,

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Andy Tsou, Chairperson
2010-11 Youth Council

ATTACHMENT B**EXCERPT FROM ITEM 7 OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL MTG MINUTES OF 09-10-11****EXCERPT OF MINUTES** **Minutes Subject to Approval****MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL****CALL TO ORDER**

The Annual Workshop of the Torrance Youth Council was called to order by Acting Chair, Candace Wu on Saturday, September 10, 2011. The meeting was held The Attic, A Torrance Teen Center; 2320 W. Carson Street, Torrance CA.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ryan Hirano, Diana Im, Gloria Kang, Minji Kim, Samuel Lee, Sean Lee, Nicole Ludena, Frank Masi, Chewy (Joo Hee) Pak, Christine Plascencia, Shiloh Schatzkamer, Anna Spallino, Grant Torre, Tiffany Tran, Serena Tsay, Candace Wu, Anthony Xian, Matthew Yu.

Absent: None

Staff: Debbie Reed, Sr. Recreation Supervisor; Youth Council Liaison
Toni Sexton, Staff Assistant to Youth Council
Melissa Lynch, Teen Center Director

7. APPOVAL OF 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2010-2011 Youth Council Annual Report was read by Serena Tsay and Anthony Xian.

MOTION: Serena Tsay moved and Tiffany Tran seconded, to approve the 2010-2011 Annual Report to the City Council. The motion carried unanimously.